applications and solar thermal systems covering 20 lakh square meters collector area have been installed. Beside, about 11,000 MW power from renewables has been added to the electricity grids.

(c) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is Suppprting deployment of renewable energy systems by providing fiscal and financial support to reduce the capital costs of these systems.

Concessions for encouraging use of non-conventional energy sources

678. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether suitable concessions are proposed to encourage the use of non-conventional energy sources;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) The Government has been providing several concessions in the form of fiscal and financial incentives to encourage the use of renewable energy sources. These include capital/interest subsidy, accelerated depreciation, nil/ concessional excise and customs duties. Further, as applicable to all new infrastructure projects, profits earned from sale of renewable power are exempt from Income Tax for any 10 years out of the first 15 years of project's operation. This apart, preferential tariff for grid interactive renewable power is being given in most potential States.

Installation of solar light systems

679. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of beneficiary villages and hamlets where solar light systems are installed, State-wise;

(b) how many such villages/hamlets have been covered in tribal and economically backward regions of Maharashtra;

(c) the criteria fixed for establishing such solar light system;

(d) the feedback about meeting the envisaged objectives; and

(e) whether it is provided gratis or village panchayats, etc. have to bear some initial or working expenses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) A programme for providing financial support for electrification of those remote unelectrified census villages and unelectrified hamlets of electrified census villages in various States, where grid extension is either not feasible or not cost effective and which are not taken up under the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojna, is being implemented by the Ministry. Such villages are provided basic facilities for lighting/electricity through various renewable energy sources including solar energy. State-wise details of villages and hamlets taken up under the programme through solar

light systems are given in the enclosed Statement *(See* below). From 2005-06, support is provided for those remote villages/hamlets which are identified by the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) for coverage through renewable energy sources. In Maharashtra, 190 tribal and economically backward villages have so far been provided support under the programme.

(d) During the implementation of the Programme in the remote villages, it has been generally gathered that the beneficiaries are satisfied with the solar lighting systems.

(e) The Ministry provides a Central Financial Assistance of upto 90% of the cost of solar lighting systems, for approved projects, subject to pre-specified maximum amounts. The balance funds may be mobilized by the State implementing agencies from the State Government and/or beneficiaries, panchayats, etc.

State-wise details of Villages and Hamlets taken up under the Remote Village Electrification Programme through Solar Light Systems

SI.No.	State	Total Villages and Hamlets
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	208
2.	Assam	704
3.	Chhattisgarh	381
4.	Gujarat	38
5.	Haryana	194
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	140
8.	Jharkhand	469
9.	Karnataka	20
10.	Kerala	558
11.	Madhya Pradesh	199
12.	Maharashtra	271
13.	Manipur	188
14.	Meghalaya	95
15.	Mizoram	20
16.	Nagaland	3
17.	Orissa	215
18.	Rajasthan	327
19.	Sikkim	13
20.	Tamil Nadu	152
21.	Tripura	550
22.	Uttarakhand	512
23.	Uttar Pradesh	250
24.	West Bengal	1156